

AL SIMMONS RETURNS NEXT ISSUE!



SPAWN®



McFarlane
Szymon



PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Jim and Susan are waiting for Sara to come out of a coma. Susan, acting concerned, uses it as an excuse to continuously touch Jim and absorb his powers. Jim, distraught, decides to take matters into his own hands. Meanwhile, Marc works on getting information on Matthew Ramus. From behind him comes a visitor, Daniel Kilgore, who enlists Marc to help Spawn win his final battle against evil. Unconvinced, Marc is reluctant to help Daniel, even when he morphs into Haunt. It is only when Haunt gives Marc a file containing information about Wanda, that he begins to trust him. On the other side of town, Mathew Ramus is unexpectedly ripped from his limo by Spawn. Spawn takes Ramus to the top of a building into the bright sunlight. Because the Costume poisoned Sara, Spawn uses Ramus as a host in order to question the Costume on how to save her. Ramus threatens to kill Downing, but Downing knows they are connected and he has the upper hand.



Jim Downing (Spawn) – A man whose past is shrouded in mystery, and connected intimately to the very fabric of the Spawn mythos, Jim is the world's newest Hellspawn...and so much more. Having spent years in a deep coma, Jim's main drive is piecing together the fragments of the man he was, in an effort to discover the man he truly is.



Sara Johnston – When Jim woke from his coma (issue #185), Sara was the first person to greet him on the other side of the darkness. A woman of strong faith, Sara's connection to Jim put her life in jeopardy and now she lies in a coma waiting for Jim to save her.



Marc Rosen – A would-be reporter-turned-media manager and confidant of Jim Downing, Marc views Jim as his ticket to a better life – though the price for that success may be far greater than Marc knows.



Susan Mathews – Susan is Marc Rosen's girlfriend and a woman with strong abandonment issues. After a tragic suicide, Susan's body now plays host to demon Hel, a spy of Clown's.



Daniel Kilgore – A lapsed priest with a "haunting" secret, Daniel Kilgore has been drawn to something sinister lurking in the shadows of New York City. What, if any connection he has to Jim Downing of Spawn remains to be seen, but this quiet, solemn young man just may be a bigger threat than anyone realizes.



Bludd – An old and powerful vampire leader, the true depths of Bludd's history are as yet unknown. In his human guise as the international mogul, Mr. Ramus, Bludd has amassed great wealth and influence. His desire to control the Jim Downing, and with him the powers of the K7-Leetha, is no secret, and has led to an uneasy partnership between Bludd and Jim – a partnership that is mutually beneficial, and, quite possibly, mutually destructive.

TODD McFARLANE
WRITER

SZYMON KUDRANSKI
ART

FCO PLASCENCIA
COLOR

TOM ORZECHOWSKI
LETTERING

TODD McFARLANE
COVER ART

TODD McFARLANE
EDITOR

Publishing Coordinator
SHANNON BAILEY

Art Director
BEN TIMMRECK

Publisher for Image Comics
ERIC STEPHENSON

SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE

image
TODD McFARLANE
PRODUCTIONS
SPAWN.COM

**YOU'RE
GOING TO
DIE!
EVERY LAST
ONE
OF YOU!**

ENOUGH!

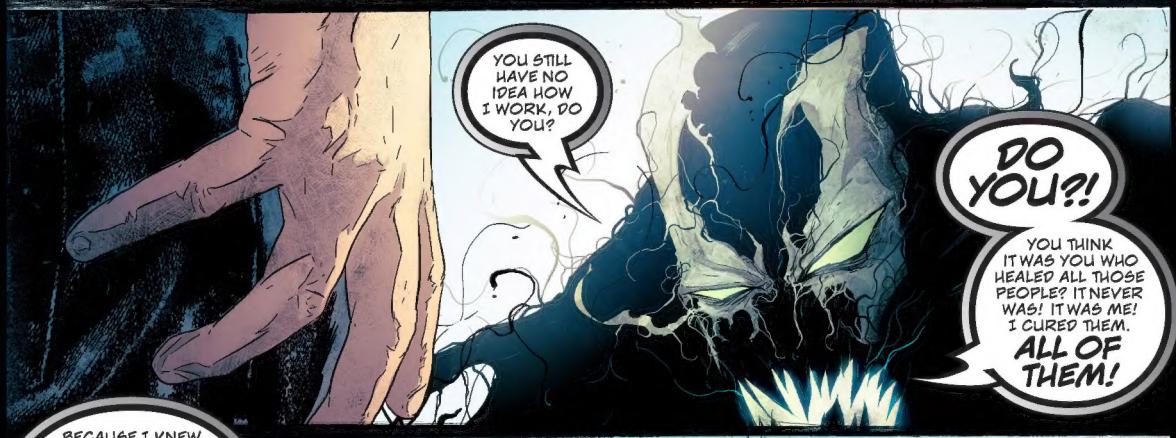
IF YOU HAD
THE POWER, YOU
WOULDN'T NEED TO TALK.
YOU'D JUST KILL ME!
BUT YOU CAN'T... OR YOU
WON'T. SO YOU DON'T GET TO
SIT THERE AND QUESTION
ANYTHING I WANT
YOU TO DO!

AND I HOPE
YOU KEEP POURING
OUT ALL THE EVIL INSIDE
YOU! IT'LL MAKE THINGS
THAT MUCH EASIER FOR
ME! BECAUSE YOU'RE
DONE CONTROLLING
ME!





AND
SOON...
I'LL BE YOUR
MASTER.



YOU STILL
HAVE NO
IDEA HOW
I WORK, DO
YOU?

DO
YOU?!!

YOU THINK
IT WAS YOU WHO
HEALED ALL THOSE
PEOPLE? IT NEVER
WAS! IT WAS ME!
I CURED THEM.
ALL OF
THEM!



BECUSE I KNEW
ONE DAY YOU'D RISE
UP AND TRY TO ASSERT
YOURSELF. THEY'VE ALL
TRIED THAT. EVERY SPAWN
I'VE BEEN ATTACHED TO
THOUGHT THEY WERE THE
ONE WITH POWER INSTEAD
OF ACCEPTING THAT
I WAS GIVING IT
TO THEM!

SO YOU'RE
GOING TO STAND
HERE NOW AND
PRETEND TO BE
SUPERIOR TO
ME?!!

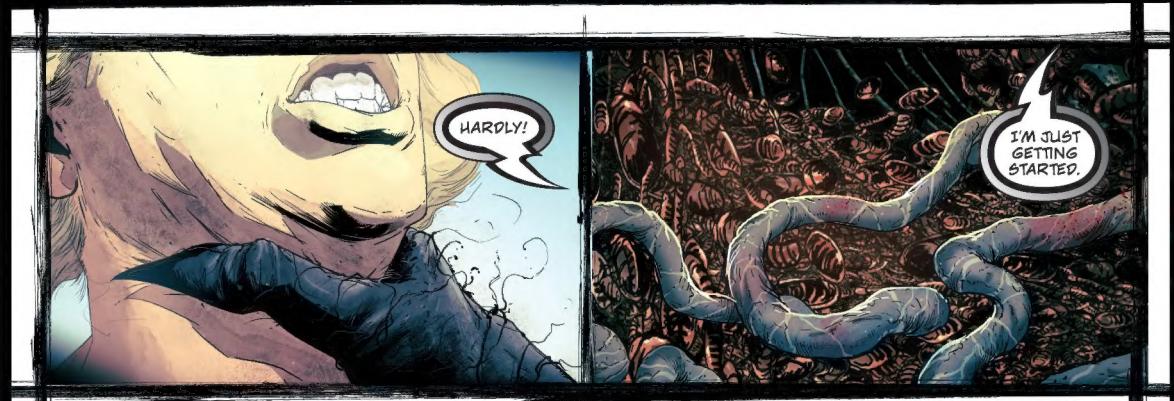
I'M NOT
PRETENDING.



THAT'S
YOUR FIRST
MISTAKE.



GIVING
'FORM' TO
YOUR EVIL
WAS YOUR
SECOND.



HA HA HA HEE HEE HA HA HA

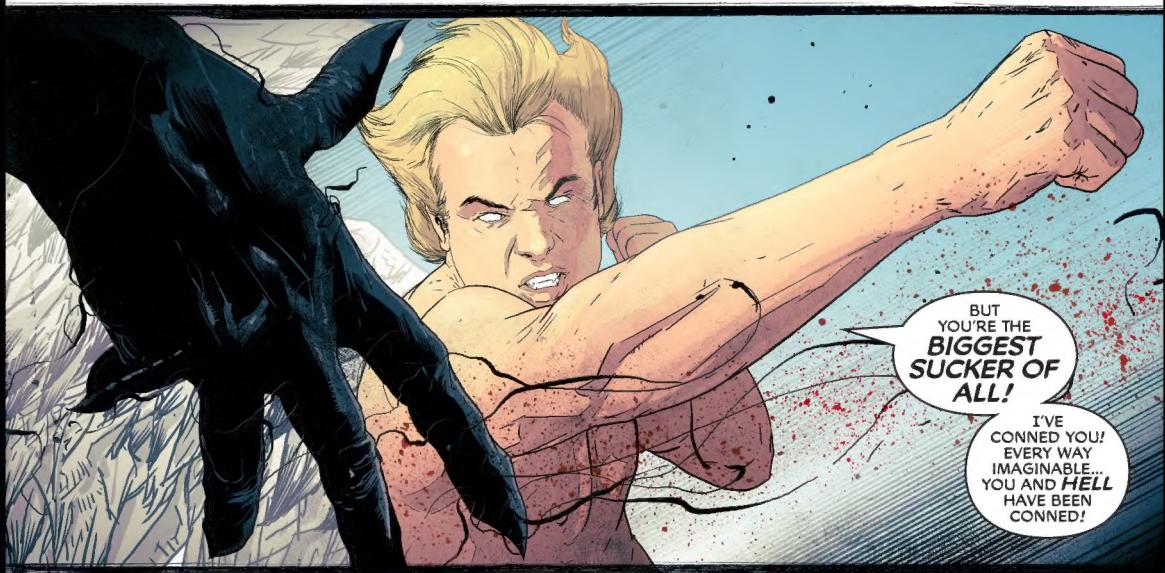
LAUGH ALL
YOU WANT,
HUMAN...

I'M DONE
PLAYING
GAMES.

BECUSE
YOUR ARROGANCE
IS GOING TO COST
MILLIONS OF NEW
YORKERS THEIR
LIVES.

THEY LOOKED
UP TO YOU DOWNING,
THEY THOUGHT YOU
WERE THEIR SAVIOR!
INSTEAD YOU WERE THEIR
GRIM REAPER!

WHY?
BECAUSE OF A
WOMAN? BECAUSE
OF SARAH? YOU'D TRADE
ALL THOSE LIVES BELOW
FOR HER?! EVERYONE
YOU'VE TOUCHED
HAS ALREADY BEEN
POISONED. I MADE
SURE OF THAT!





YOU
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
USING
ME?

I LET
YOU! CAN YOU
COMPREHEND
THAT? I LET YOU
THINK YOU WERE
WINNING! JUST SO
WE COULD GET
TO THIS EXACT
MOMENT!

I WANTED YOU
HERE-- ATTACHED
TO A NON-HUMAN
LIKE BLUDD!



BECAUSE
IT MAKES YOU
WEAK. THE WAY
YOU FIGHT IT IS
TO DRAIN YOUR-
SELF OF MORE
POWER.



SO
SPREAD
YOUR DAMN
EVIL! I DARE
YOU!



BECAUSE
YOU'RE GOING
TO SUBMIT TO
ME... OR WE'RE
BOTH GOING TO
DIE! EITHER
WAY I WIN!

SO TELL
BLUDD TO
HOLD HIS
BREATH... THIS
IS GOING
TO BE
PAINFUL!





Entertainment Scoop reports Brad Pitt is attached to play the role of Captain Patriot the Fincher-directed film. President-elect Obama will star inside the hole. Ewoks have been spotted near a Brooklyn soup kitchen. Reports indicate these Endor refugees have been in hider

WITH NEWS ABOUT SARA JOHNSTON'S SUDDEN ILLNESS WHICH FORCED HER TO BE RUSHED TO A HOSPITAL LATE LAST NIGHT, WE ARE STILL AWAITING ANY UPDATES TO HER CURRENT CONDITION. SOME SOURCES SAY SHE IS IN A COMA, WHILE CONFLICTING REPORTS SAY SHE IS AWAKE AND DOCTORS ARE TENDING TO HER INJURIES. IN EITHER CASE, IT APPEARS SHE HAS BEEN LISTED IN STABLE CONDITION.

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, SHE HAS BEEN LINKED AS THE NURSE WHO WAS AT JIM DOWNING'S BEDSIDE WHEN HE WAS IN HIS MULTI-YEAR COMA. SINCE AWAKENING, HE'S SHOWN TRAITS OF POTENTIAL ENHANCED ABILITIES. THOSE ABILITIES HAVE LED HIM TO START A FOUNDATION WITH THE GOAL OF CURING PATIENTS OF MEDICALLY TERMINAL DISEASES. WHAT HASN'T BECOME CLEAR IS WHAT MISS JOHNSTON'S TRUE RELATIONSHIP IS TO DOWNING. AND IF, AS BEEN SPECULATED, IT'S MORE THAN A PROFESSIONAL BOND BETWEEN THEM..HOW HELL DEAL WITH HER SITUATION AND WHAT THE FUTURE CONSEQUENCES ARE REGARDING PLANS MOVING FORWARD, ARE STILL UNKNOWN.

WHY?

X-pose

Entertainment Scoop reports Brad Pitt is attached to play the role of Captain Patriot the Fincher-directed film. President-elect Obama will star inside the hole. Ewoks have been spotted near a Brooklyn soup kitchen. Reports indicate these Endor refugees have been in hider

LET ME START BY SAYING, WE IN THE MEDIA CAN BE COMPLETE IDIOTS AT TIMES!! **WHY?**? BECAUSE WE THINK **YOU** VIEWERS ARE SUCKERS! HERE'S HOW IT WORKS...

FIRST WE START BY GIVING YOU NEWS THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE HOTTEST STORY WE THINK YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT. **THEN** WE BUILD IT INTO A HUGE DEAL IN THE FIRST FEW DAYS, REGARDLESS OF HOW IMPORTANT THE STORY **REALLY** IS. WE RAMP UP TO **HYPE-MODE** SO FAST IN TELLING YOU THE NEWS, WE LEAVE VERY LITTLE ROOM TO BUILD IT BIGGER, IN THE EVENT THERE ARE FACTS WHICH GROW THE STORY. LET'S LOOK AT A CURRENT EXAMPLE...

YESTERDAY, EVERYONE WAS IN A PANIC ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO SARA JOHNSTON? WE ASKED: "IS THE NEW SAVIOR'S GIRLFRIEND DYING? WHY CAN'T **MYSTERY 'HEALER'** JIM DOWNING SAVE HIS OWN **LOVE**? IS DOWNING FOUNDATION A **FRAUD**?" ALL OF THESE TANTALIZING SOUND BITES ARE MEANT TO STIR YOUR EMOTIONS AND GET YOU TO PAY ATTENTION, EVEN THOUGH NOTHING IS ACTUALLY THERE BEYOND AN **AVERAGE** STORY WITH A **TON OF HYPE**!

NOW **TODAY**-- WE SUDDENLY JUMP TO THE 'BUG INVASION' OR THE 'COCKROACH TSUNAMI'! **WHY?** BECAUSE WE **CAN**!! WE WANT YOU TO BE SCARED AND FRIGHTENED SO YOU'LL TUNE IN. WE WANT YOU TO THINK THAT **MAYBE** YOUR HOUSE OR APARTMENT MIGHT BE NEXT. THAT SOON YOU'LL HAVE A **BATHTUB** FULL OF **CREEPY-CRAWLIES**! IT'S ALL B.S.! TOMORROW WELL HAVE ANOTHER SENSATIONAL HEADLINE FOR YOU, SO STAY TUNED...**SUCKERS!!!**

ALL OVER MANHATTAN, POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS ARE FIELDING CALLS FROM CONCERNED CITIZENS ABOUT LARGE INFESTATIONS OF INSECTS AND SMALL CREATURES. RATS, SNAKES, AND OVER A DOZEN TYPES OF BUGS, SEEM TO BE MOBILIZING IN ENORMOUS HORDES THAT SOME WITNESSES ARE SAYING RANGE FROM A FEW HUNDRED TO TENS OF THOUSANDS -- ALL IN THE SAME PLACE. THEIR PRESENCE IS CAUSING SOME MINOR DESTRUCTION SUCH AS ELECTRICAL OUTAGES AND AIR CONDITIONING ISSUES BECAUSE OF THEIR NUMBERS. SO FAR NO INJURIES OR ATTACKS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED, BUT A CITY OFFICIAL SAID THEY HAVE A TASK FORCE LOOKING INTO WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE CAUSING SUCH AN EXTREME SITUATION.

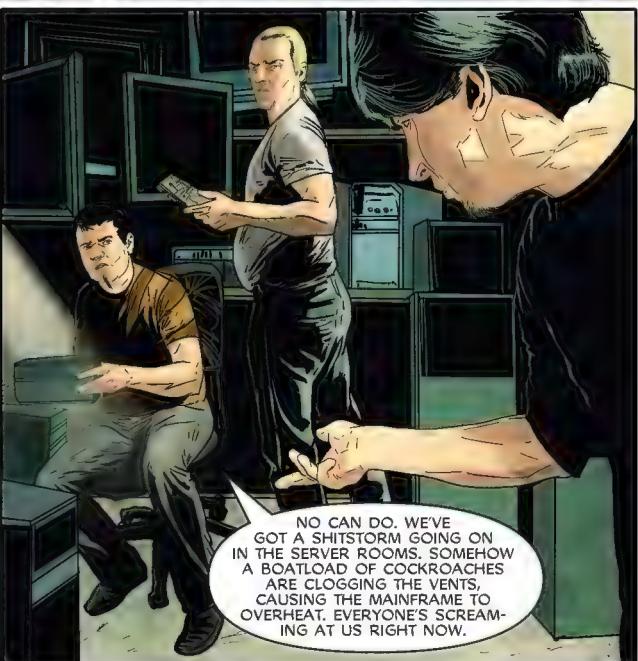
RECORDS INDICATE THAT THE WEATHER PATTERNS HAVE NOT DRAMATICALLY CHANGED IN THE PAST YEAR -- WHICH SOME THOUGHT MAY BE AN EASY ANSWER TO POINT TO THE CAUSE OF THIS HEAVY BREEDING. TO FURTHER COMPOUND THIS BIZARRE SET OF EVENTS -- SOME RESIDENTS NEAR CENTRAL PARK, ARE ALSO REPORTING A HEAVY PRESENCE OF BIRDS IN THE AREA. RAVENS, CROWS, AND EVEN SOME BATS ARE HOVERING IN CERTAIN POCKETS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF AN ALFRED HITCHCOCK MOVIE. WE'RE TRYING TO GET FOOTAGE OF SOME OF THE WORST STRICKEN AREAS, SO STAY WITH US. AS THE TALK OF THE TOWN GANG BRINGS YOU FURTHER DETAILS OF THIS BREAKING STORY NEXT HOUR.

CNR

METR 2123.17 (+5.34) SPN 1850.13 (+1.85) JFH 916.77 (-2.21) JFST 49.61 (+1.65) MMN 913.13 (-4.44) TDK 525.10 (-0.11)
Rain fall in Seo

CNR reports sales of Industrial cotton swabs has drastically increased since President Elect Obama's Inauguration.





"AND FROM TALKING WITH OUR OFFSITE SERVICE GUYS, WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES HAVING TO DEAL WITH CRAP LIKE THIS."



In the Choice Somewhere...



gasp!



IN THE FUTURE IT WILL BE WRITTEN THAT IT WAS THIS FATEFUL FALL FROM THE SKY THAT SET EVERYTHING IN MOTION. THAT CAUSED EVERYTHING TO CHANGE.



IT WAS A PERFECT COMBINATION OF BLUDD'S TOXIC BODY COMPOSITION, THE SYMBIOTE'S RELEASE OF ITS OWN POWER, AND THE FACT THAT JIM DOWNING'S SOUL HAD BEEN TO HEAVEN, HELL AND 'THE BLACK.'

AND THAT COMBINATION WAS THE BRIEF OPPORTUNITY NEEDED TO PUSH OVER THE FIRST, FATEFUL DOMINO IN THIS BATTLE...

THOUGH NONE OF THE COMBATANTS WOULD EVER BE AWARE OF THAT FACT.

INSTEAD THEY WAGED
A BATTLE AGAINST EACH
OTHER THAT SHOOK
THE VERY ROOFTOPS.

A FIGHT THAT COULDN'T END IN
ANYONE'S DEATH...BECAUSE THEY
EACH NEEDED ONE ANOTHER
FOR THEIR OWN SURVIVAL.

IF ONE DIED... THEY ALL
WOULD... THAT LINK MADE
WHAT THEY WERE DOING
SEEM FOOLISH AT THE TIME.









IT
WON'T
KILL YOU! I
WAS BEGGING IT
TO, DO IT BUT
IT WON'T
LISTEN!

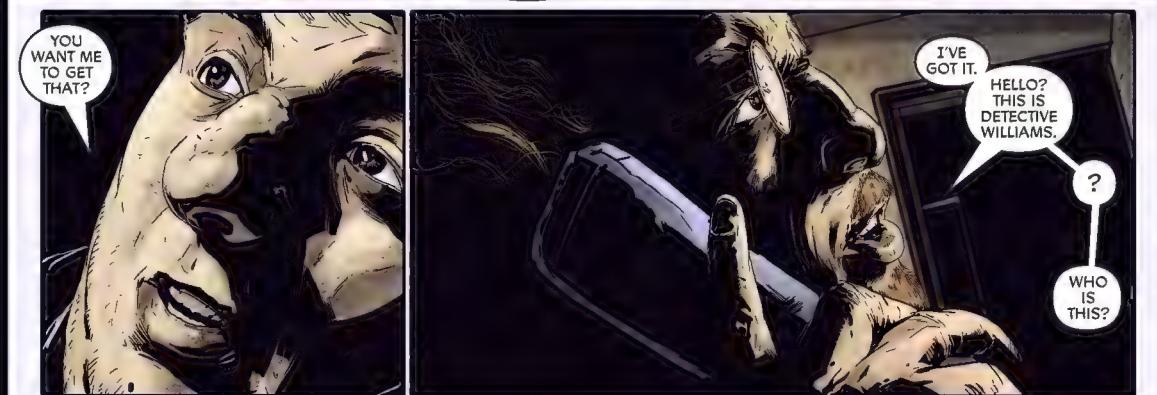
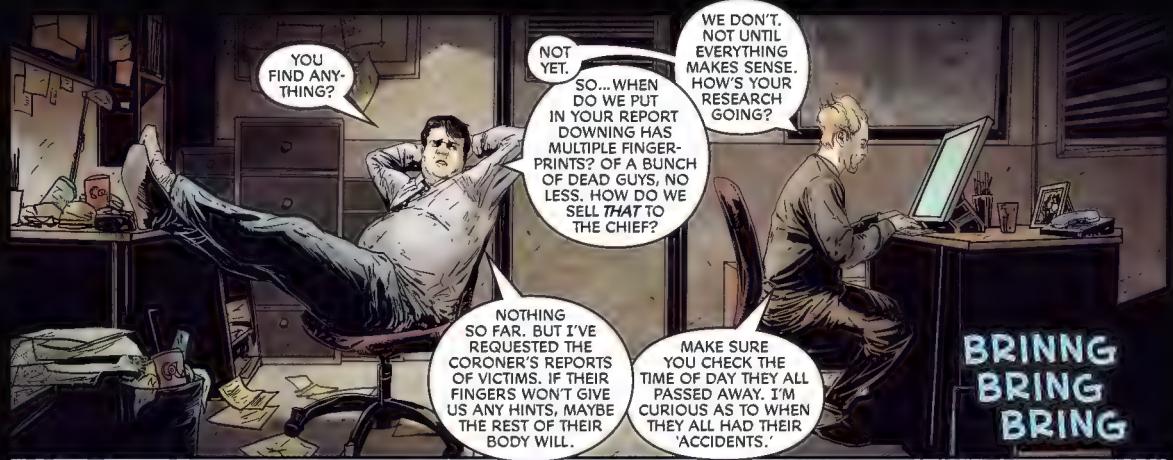


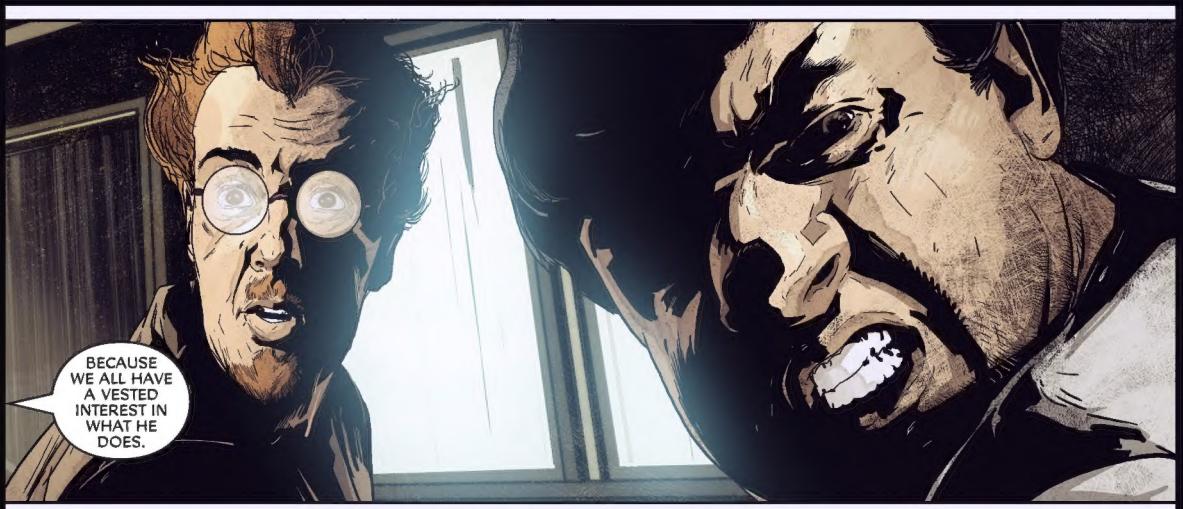
BECAUSE
IT KNEW.
IT'S DAYS WERE
NUMBERED.

HOW
COULD IT KILL
DOWNING...

WHEN HE
DOESN'T EXIST
ANYMORE?







"YOU NEED TO LOOK AT THINGS DIFFERENTLY THAN EVERYONE ELSE."

Entry

GOT MY
TICKET?

YEAH.
HERE YOU GO.
BUT YOU OWE ME
TEN BUCKS FOR
TODAY.

"PEOPLE'S FEAR WILL
ACTUALLY BLIND THEM TO
WHAT'S IN FRONT OF THEM."

IS IT JUST
ME, OR DOES
IT SEEM KINDA
WEIRD THERE'S
NO ONE ELSE
AROUND?

IT'S PAST
MIDNIGHT. PEOPLE
BECOME PUSSIES
AFTER THAT. I'M MORE
CONCERNED ABOUT
WHY THE TRAIN'S
SO LATE.

FINALLY!

I'VE GOTTA
GET A CAR
SOON. THIS IS
RIDICULOUS.

"AND WHEN YOU
SEE THE SAME
THING I DO..."

"YOU'LL KICK YOURSELF AT
HOW OBVIOUS IT ALL WAS!"

TWITCH!
TURN ON YOUR
TV--YOU AND SAM
NEED TO SEE WHAT'S
HAPPENING OUT-
SIDE! WE'VE GOTTEN
CALLS THE PAST FEW
HOURS BUT IT SEEMS
TO BE GETTING
WORSE!

ONE
CHANNEL'S
SHOWING
AERIAL VIEWS
RIGHT
NOW.

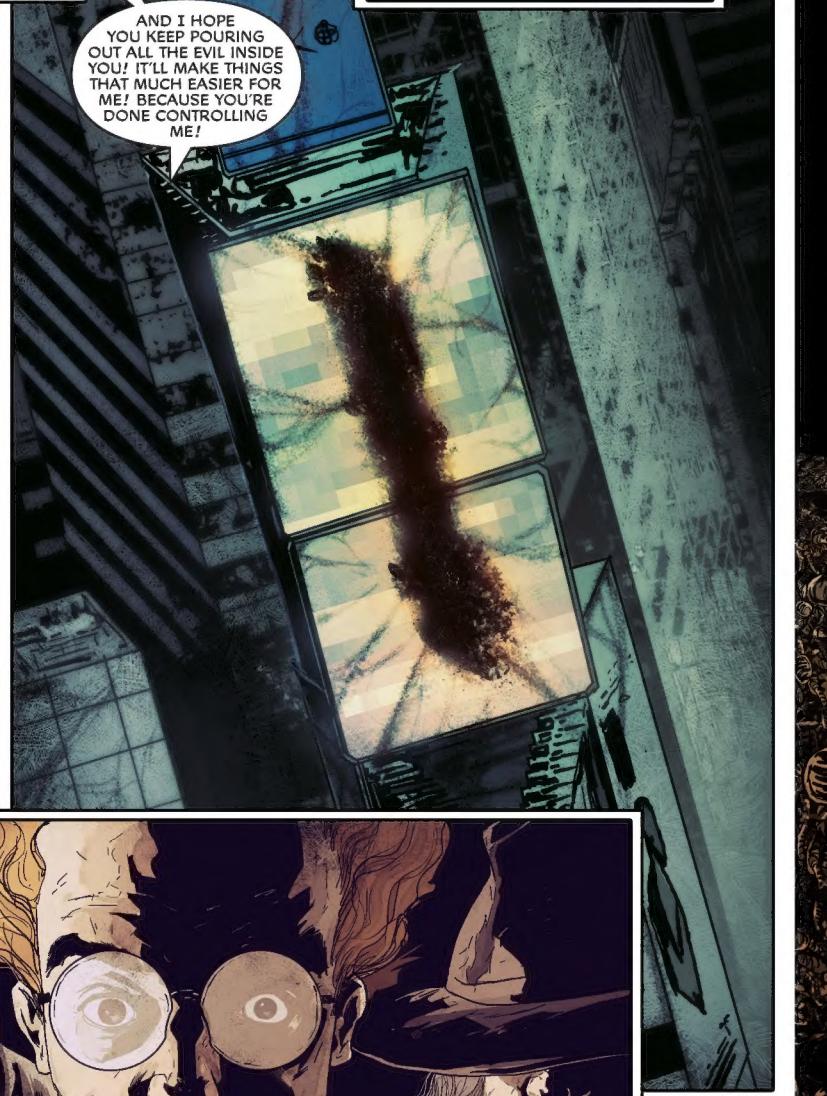
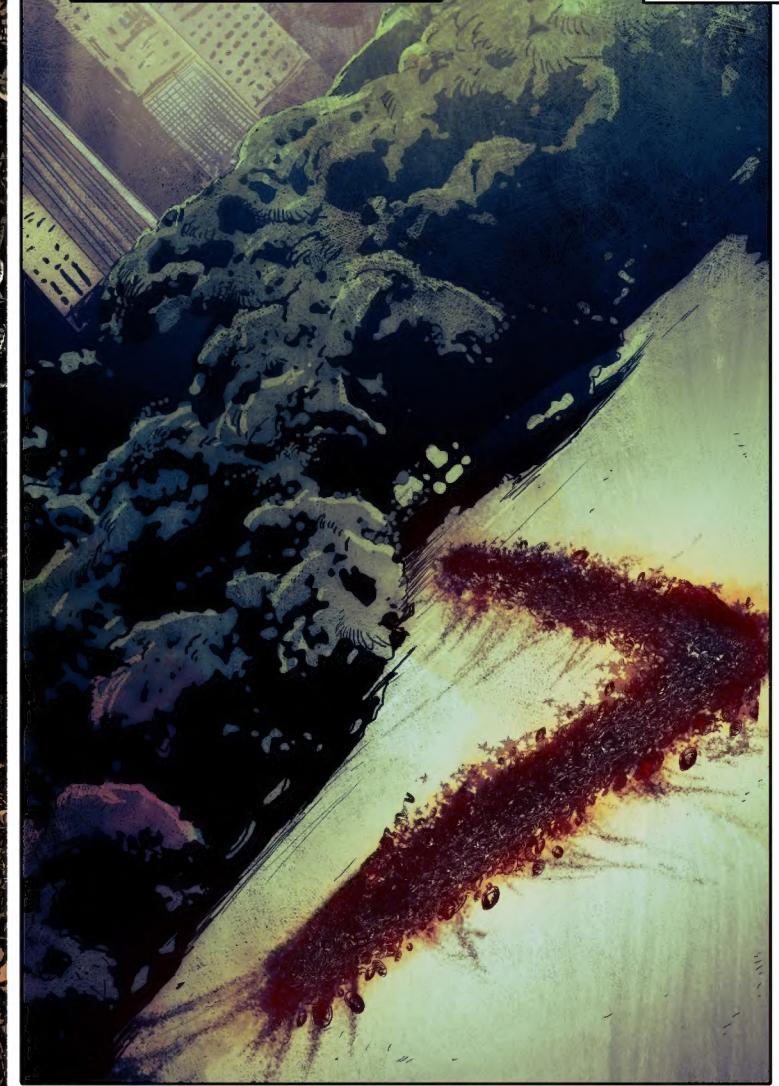
SOME
SOURCES ARE
TELLING US THAT CERTAIN
POCKETS OF THE CITY ARE
FAR WORSE THAN OTHERS!
WE ARE TRYING TO SEE IF
WE CAN BRING VIEWERS A
CLOSER LOOK, BUT FROM
MY VANTAGE... WE DON'T
NEED TO GET MUCH
CLOSER.

YOU'RE
GOING TO
DIE!
EVERY LAST
ONE
OF YOU!

REPORTING LIVE

ENOUGH!
IF YOU HAD
THE POWER, YOU
WOULDN'T NEED TO TALK.
YOU'D JUST KILL ME!
BUT YOU CAN'T... OR YOU
WON'T. SO YOU DON'T GET TO
SIT THERE AND QUESTION
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AND I HOPE
YOU KEEP POURING
OUT ALL THE EVIL INSIDE
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THAT MUCH EASIER FOR
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DONE CONTROLLING
ME!



NEXT: THE 250th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!
THE RETURN OF SIMMONS! AND THE DEATH OF JIM DOWNING??



EMPIRE

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